



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/630,948      | 07/29/2003  | Wei Zhan Hang        | 33417/US            | 1775             |

20686 7590 04/17/2007  
DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT  
370 SEVENTEENTH STREET  
SUITE 4700  
DENVER, CO 80202-5647

|          |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

A, PHI DIEU TRAN

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3637

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 04/17/2007 | PAPER         |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/630,948

Applicant(s)

HANG, WEI ZHAN

Examiner

Phi D. A

Art Unit

3637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gailey (4736564) in view of Neumann et al (3246074).

Gailey (figure 5) shows a carrier (82), a paneling system (85, 85a) wherein the paneling system has at least a pair of longitudinally adjacent panels, each of which has a first and a second hook-shaped flange (92, 102) extending longitudinally from longitudinally opposite sides of the panel, the carrier comprising an arm (89) that extend longitudinally from a vertically extending member (81), the first and second flanges extend longitudinally over the free end of the carrier.

Gailey does not show the arm including a first upwardly open U-shaped channel between an upstanding free end and an upstanding locking lug and a second upwardly open U-shaped channel between the locking lug and the vertically extending member, the first channel of the carrier receives therein the first hook shaped flange of the one panel of the pair of the panels and the second channel of the carrier receives the second flange of the other panel of the pair of panels to attach the pair of panels to the carrier.

Neumann et al shows the arm including a first upwardly open U-shaped channel between an upstanding free end (34, figure 5) and an upstanding locking lug (the protruding part between 34 and 32, figure 5) and a second upwardly open U-shaped channel between the locking lug and the vertically extending member, the first channel of the carrier receives therein the first hook

Art Unit: 3637

shaped flange of the one panel of the pair of the panels and the second channel of the carrier receives the second flange of the other panel of the pair of panels (81, and the panel which forms the top of the panel 81) to attach the pair of panels to the carrier

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gailey's structure to show the arm including a first upwardly open U-shaped channel between an upstanding free end and an upstanding locking lug and a second upwardly open U-shaped channel between the locking lug and the vertically extending member, the first channel of the carrier receives therein the first hook shaped flange of the one panel of the pair of the panels and the second channel of the carrier receives the second flange of the other panel of the pair of panels to attach the pair of panels to the carrier because it allows for the easy secure attachment of the panels to the carrier as taught by Neumann et al.

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gailey in view of Neumann et al (3246074).

Gailey as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the upstanding free end of the arm comprising a downwardly and outwardly angled surface.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gailey's modified structure to show the upstanding free end of the arm comprising a downwardly and outwardly angled surface because having a tapering surface would reduce stress at the end of the free end and thus enables the prevention of cracking/chipping of the panel.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gailey in view of Neumann et al (3246074) and further in view of Ritter (4937994).

Gailey as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the locking lug extending vertically above the upstanding free end.

Ritter shows the locking lug (18a) extending vertically above the upstanding free end.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gailey's modified structure to show the locking lug extending vertically above the upstanding free end as taught by Ritter because having a higher locking lug would ensure that the panel which is at a higher elevation as it is on top of the other panel, be lockingly secured in the second channel.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gailey in view of Neumann et al (3246074).

Gailey as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gailey's modified structure to show the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel because the rim having an outwardly angled surface facing the adjacent longitudinal side of the panel, would reduce stress at the end of the free end and thus enables the prevention of cracking/chipping of the panel.

Gailey as modified shows the rim slidably receiving the upstanding free end of the one of the pair of carrier during installation of the panel to the carrier.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-9, 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

*Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows different panel attachment systems.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3637

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phi Dieu Tran A

PA

4/16/07

LANNA MAI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

*Lanna Mai*